

ture Houellef, fifteen miles northwest of Verdun. The German resistance was too strong and the attacking force had to retire after sustaining considerable losses.

The Afternoon Report.

From the sea to the Oise Sunday passed in almost complete calm. The weather was rainy. There were artillery exchanges at some points along the front. In front of Noulette our heavy artillery reduced the German batteries to silence.

On the Aisne and in the Champagne district the cannonading was particularly violent. Our batteries showed their superiority and brought under their fire reserve forces of the enemy. We have come into possession of several points of support held by the Germans in the region of Perthes and of Le Mesnil-Hurlus. Between the Argonne and the Meuse, as well as on the heights of the Meuse, there were no important changes. An effort made yesterday morning by our troops to occupy Houellef fifteen miles east of Verdun did not succeed.

Our advance continued in the forest of Le Prieux, which is to the northwest of Pont-a-Mousson. In upper Alsace we occupied an important height to the west of Cernay (Sennheim). A counter-attack by the enemy was repulsed. In Steinbach we have taken possession of the church quarter and of the cemetery.

Heavy Rain in Flanders.

In Flanders and along the north hinge of the battle front in France, fog and heavy rain have divided all thoughts of offensive movements for the present. Heavy artillery is in play constantly, but no infantry attacks have been initiated. The weather is giving a reason that no bombardment was begun by the Franco-British fleet which appeared again off the Belgian coast.

The evident purpose of the French offensive in Alsace as interpreted by military experts here, is to reach Muelhausen and thus cut off the German troops holding Altkirch and the part of Alsace east and south of Muelhausen.

Cernay, or Sennheim as the Germans have called it since 1870, is nine miles northwest of Muelhausen, three miles east of Thann and twelve miles north of Altkirch.

MUELHAUSEN IN SIGHT.

By Central News.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—It is reported here that the Germans had made great preparations to defend Steinbach against the French, even transforming houses, gardens and streets into veritable redoubts. Machine guns were posted everywhere, but the deadly French "seventy-fives" forced the Germans to evacuate their positions, leaving 2,300 dead and wounded behind.

The German position in Cernay has become extremely perilous and its occupation is thought to be imminent.

The French soldiers have been aroused to a high pitch of determination and enthusiasm by the fact that the flames flying over Muelhausen are now visible to them.

FORCING GERMANS NORTH.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 4.—A despatch from Paris to the Daily Chronicle says the Germans in Belgium are being slowly forced toward the Dutch frontier. Many Germans are employed in constructing defense works only two and one-half miles from the Dutch line. Fifteen houses have been destroyed at Heyst and there is a clear range for the big guns commanding Zevenkerke harbor.

Large reinforcements have arrived on the coast.

"NEW ATROCITY," SAYS "TEMPS."

Former Harvard Exchange Professor Germany's Art Expert in France.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PARIS, Jan. 4.—The North German Gazette of Berlin announces that Privy Councillor Clemens of the University of Bonn, formerly exchange professor at Harvard and an art expert, has been appointed official inspector of artistic monuments in the departments of France that have been occupied by the Germans.

The Temps, in commenting on this appointment, asks if the object is to complete the destruction of these works of art.

KAISER HAS RELAPSE.

Exposure at Front Said to Have Caused Return of Illness.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 4.—A despatch from Maasticht reports that Emperor William has had a relapse as a result of exposure at the front following his first illness and is being rushed back to Berlin on the imperial train.

The despatch says that all military trains were sidetracked to give the Kaiser the special right of way and that traffic between Lille and Aix-la-Chapelle was held up for ten hours.

U. S. AVIATORS GO TO ST. CYR.

Thaw, Bach and Hall Will Leave for Front Soon.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PARIS, Jan. 4.—William Thaw, J. J. Bach and Weston Hall, three members of the American volunteers, who were attached to the Foreign Legion and who have been definitely accepted for service with the French aviation corps, will be sent to the front after a few weeks service at the military school at St. Cyr. These men are the first foreigners ever admitted to the French Aviation Corps.

EXPECTED XMAS NAVAL FIGHT.

All Men at Guns, but Church Service Was Held, Says Jellicoe.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 4.—Vice-Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, commander of the British home fleet, has written a letter to his brother in which he says:

"We spent Christmas Day waiting for the Germans, who did not appear. But we managed to find time for church service and three celebrations of communion, although the whole line was cleared for action and all the men were at the guns."

SUBMARINE SANK FORMIDABLE?

Germans Say Boat Destroyed the British Battleship.

BERLIN, via wireless to Sayville, L. I., Jan. 4.—The official press bureau made public the following official announcement today:

"A German submarine boat reports by wireless to the Admiralty in Berlin that it has torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel off Plymouth the British battleship Formidable."

"The submarine was pursued by British destroyers, but escaped undamaged."

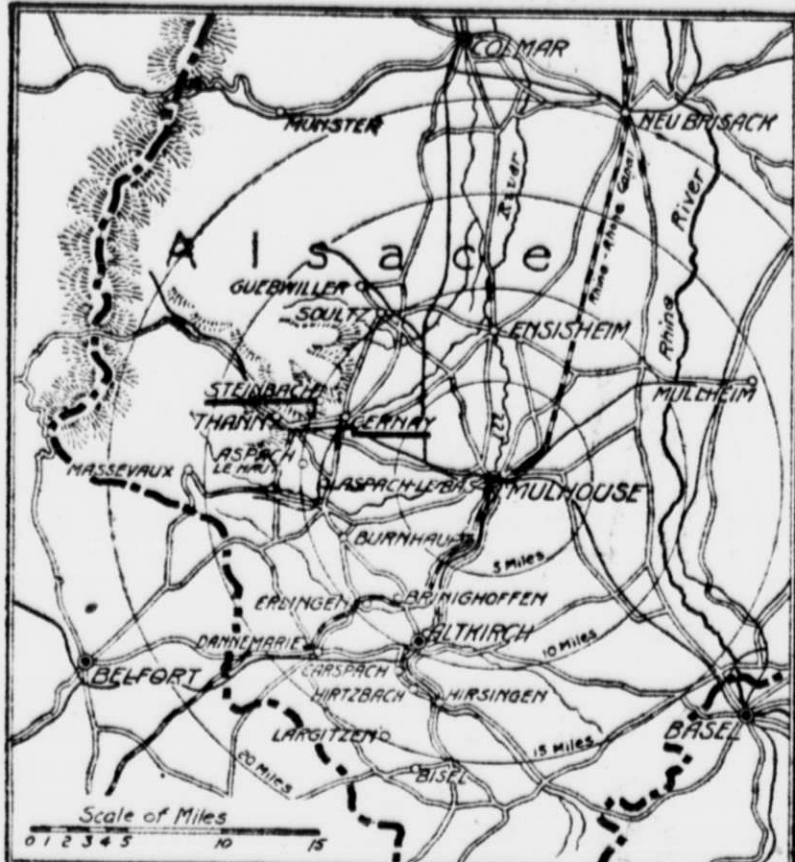
Submarine Reported Destroyed.

Berlin, via Amsterdam, Jan. 4.—A report is current here that the British battleship Formidable was sunk by a German submarine, which was destroyed three hours later by a mine. There is no confirmation.

The identity of the submarine is not disclosed, but the detail is given that the warship was sunk with two torpedoes. The Admiralty announces that it has nothing to report on the subject.

Miss Polinore Cancels Reception.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PARIS, Jan. 4.—Miss Polinore, wife of the President, announces that on account of the war she will not hold reception this winter.



THE map shows the scene of the operations in Haute-Alsace, particularly Cernay and Steinbach, for the possession of which fighting has been going on for several days. The French lines now run down to the west of Cernay past Altkirch, where they are close enough to bombard the town.

Steinbach is about two miles east of Thann and Cernay, or Sennheim, as the Germans call it, is a mile on further east. The French command has held all of Steinbach and also have captured the German positions west of Cernay. The evident aim of the French commanders is to capture Muelhausen and thus to cut off the German troops defending Altkirch.

GERMANS ADMIT LOSS OF STEINBACH

French Captured Heights West of Sennheim Also, Says Berlin Report.

BERLIN, (by wireless to London), Jan. 4.—The capture by the French of Steinbach, Alsace, is officially admitted by the Germans in a statement issued at the general army headquarters today. The statement follows:

In the western theatre of the war, except for a more or less heavy artillery combat along the front, the situation was generally quiet.

Only near Thann (Alsace) did the enemy show great activity. After an overwhelming bombardment of the heights to the west of Sennheim (Cernay) the enemy succeeded during the evening in capturing our demolished trenches on those heights, and in connection therewith the village of Steinbach, which we stubbornly defended, and which has been frequently mentioned in our reports during the last few days. The heights were retaken during the night after a bayonet attack. Fighting for the village of Steinbach continues.

In the eastern theatre of the war the situation is unchanged. Our attacks in Poland to the east of the Rava River continue.

VIENNA REPORTS GAINS.

12,735 Russians Captured in Christmas Season, Is Claim.

VIENNA, Jan. 4.—The following official statement was issued this evening:

In the severe battles in the district south of Gorlice, which were fought under the worst weather conditions, our brave troops assured themselves through getting possession of an important line of hills, of a favorable base for further operations.

During the battles in the northern theatre at Christmas time we captured thirty-seven officers and 12,735 men.

AUSTRIA CONFIDENT.

Victory Is Firmly Expected, Says Washington Embassy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The Austro-Hungarian Embassy issued the following today:

The whole press in taking a retrospective view of the first five months of the war expresses the firm conviction that the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, united with Germany, is adequate to brave every storm. The successes up to now on land and sea, the financial ability of the country, the courage and perseverance of the troops have given the country imperishable confidence in the victory of our cause.

GERMAN EXPORTS FALL.

Big Decrease in Shipments From Hamburg to U. S.

BERLIN, via London, Jan. 4.—Exports from the Hamburg consular district to the United States and its insular possessions in 1914 show a big decrease over the last previous year. For 1914 they were \$18,220,715; for 1913, \$29,159,313; and for 1912, \$27,357,853. Raw materials, manufactured goods and miscellaneous articles were all affected.

PRZEMYSL IN NEED.

Garrison Is Reported Almost Without Provisions.

LESZNA, Galicia, via Petrograd and London, Jan. 4.—The plight of Przemyśl is growing more serious daily. It is reported that pestilence is spreading throughout the city and among the garrison, which is now almost without provisions.

Sorties are still made by the garrison, but they are ineffectual. This is ascribed to knowledge of the soldiers that Austrian efforts to relieve them have failed.

BIRRELL SOON TO RETIRE.

Herbert Samuel May Be Secretary to Lord Wimborne.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 5.—The Daily News and Leader says it is expected that Augustine Birrell, who has been Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland since 1907, will retire shortly. It is believed that Herbert Samuel, President of the Local Government Board, will succeed him.

Haron Wimborne's appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to succeed the Marquis of Aberdeen was announced last night.

GREEN STRIPE SCOTCH

Ask for the Non-refillable Bottle with the Green Stripe. ANDREW USHER & CO., Edinburgh.

TURKS AND RUSSIANS BOTH REPORT GAINS

Constantinople Announces Victory in Trans-Caucasia; Petrograd Claims Advantage.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Reports from Constantinople and Petrograd concerning the battle which has been raging in Trans-Caucasia for several days are decidedly conflicting. The Russian report follows:

In the region of Sari Kamush on January 1, the great battle continued, obviously to our advantage. The enemy, however, continued to offer an obstinate resistance.

We captured the Fifteenth regiment of infantry almost complete, including the commander and fifty officers. The total of Turkish prisoners amounts to 5,000 soldiers, forty officers and several surgeons. We also captured six pieces of mountain artillery, fourteen machine guns and ammunition.

The next day the fighting here was still going on. Our troops have captured some positions which the Turks had occupied and took three machine guns and more than 700 prisoners.

Our troops are operating under conditions exceptionally painful on account of the cold and snow in a high altitude. The morale of our soldiers is good and they fight with ardor.

The Turkish statement is as follows: The Caucasian army continues its victorious advance. Our troops, which reached Sari Kamush, thirty-five miles southwest of Kars, won a final victory after a severe battle. In the last ten days we have captured 2,000 Russians, eight cannons, thirteen quick-firing and a great quantity of ammunition and war material.

Between Sari Kamush and Kars we captured two military trains and destroyed the railway. Our troops are advancing further north, with fresh success.

Troops advancing from Tosehkerd into Russian territory destroyed a Russian battalion which lost 200 dead and 400 prisoners.

Austrians Suffer Heavily as Czar's Troops Sweep On

Petrograd Announces Surrender of Entire Battalion in Uzok Pass District—Occupation of Sutchada Likely to Influence Rumania's Attitude Toward War.

GERMANS DRIVEN FROM TRENCH NEAR BOLIMOW

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 4.—The night communiqué of the Russian General Staff announces that there has been no change in the situation in the Buzra-Itavka district, that the Russians are continuing their advance in Galicia and that the Germans have been driven from a trench they captured near Bolimow. The statement follows:

Throughout yesterday no important change took place on the left bank of the Vistula and the usual artillery duel was fought, together with several small engagements.

The fighting in the Bolimow region became more desperate on Saturday night and continued so during Sunday morning. Here the Germans, after a desperate night attack, forced one of our trenches, but were immediately dislodged. They left behind six machine guns and a number of prisoners.

We have made fresh progress in western Galicia, taking more than 1,000 Austrians prisoners and capturing several cannons and machine guns. In the Uzok Pass district also we took a number of machine guns and several cannons. In this action a whole Austrian battalion, with eleven officers, surrendered. In the same region the staff of a hostile column, including the commanding officer, fell into our hands with all their official documents.

On our extreme wing our troops, passing through the whole of Bukovina, occupied Sutchada, one verst (two-thirds of a mile) from the Austro-Rumanian frontier.

The capture of Sutchada is regarded here as an important stroke and as likely to have considerable bearing on Rumania's attitude toward entering the war. This is in territory inhabited by many Rumanians, whose sentiments are reported as becoming decidedly pro-Russian as a result of the recent Russian victories. The region once belonged to Rumania and the possibility of recovering it would be almost sufficient of itself to send the country into the war.

The Russian statement this afternoon tells of some of the most bitter fighting of the war in the east, notably at Bolimow.

HUNDREDS OF GERMANS CUT DOWN BY BAYONETS

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—A Petrograd despatch to the Daily Mail says:

"It would seem that the German General Staff has not found a fresh tactical method of keeping off the Russians from Silesia. After a pause which aroused expectations of a new development the Germans have resumed their old place with frontal attacks in solid formation."

"From East Prussia to the Carpathians there is hard fighting again at every point of contact. The heaviest German blows are being delivered at Rawa, with the aid of heavy artillery, which even so shrewd a critic as Col. Shumsky of the House Gazette believes to be 16 inch howitzers. This writer adds the interesting statement that these heavy calibre guns were merely copied by the Krupps from the Austrians, who experimented with them in 1913."

"The Germans cannot now outflank the Russians at Rawa, since the Russian front has been extended and there is now an unbroken front from the Vistula in North Poland to Galicia, where it crosses the Vistula again. The plan of hurrying the troops across the Carpathians in front of Warsaw, in the hope of forcing a breach in the Russian dam, suggests that the German General Staff feels that it would be unsafe to cease the hammering process, in spite of the fact that every blow is terribly expensive to them."

"The Russians are always ready for surprise attacks. A night or two ago a battalion of German troops was reported to the Colonel of a Siberian regiment to be crossing the whole. The Colonel waited until the whole 500 men had formed on the Russian side of the river. Then he gave the order to close in and attack with the bayonet without opening fire. The Germans were caught so unexpectedly that many of them had no time to fix bayonets. The nature of the force consisted of the Siberians may be gathered from the fact that more than 100 Germans were killed outright. Only eleven prisoners were taken."

"The Russian troops have been made furious by the belief that the Germans murder wounded Cossacks. Several Russians in the hospital here declare that when they were lying on the ground disabled they were asked by the Germans if they were Cossacks. They had to shout quickly 'no' to avoid being finished off. This is not unlikely, considering the terror of the Cossacks which has haunted eastern Germany and has even caused a nightmare in Berlin."

"This same fact is now disturbing the rest of Hungary. While one of the Russian armies is pursuing the disorderly rout of the Austrians down the Hun-

garian side of the Carpathians, another is approaching the frontier of Transylvania, having subdued the resistance in the Austrian district lying east of Galicia, which is known as Bukovina. "The nervousness of the Russians to the Rumanian frontier is increasing. The Rumanian eagerness to join them and seize Transylvania, which is largely inhabited by Rumanians. Lately the Austro-Hungarian military leaders and officials have been behaving with vicious severity because of the knowledge that the population is disaffected."

"It is no secret that Germany has offered to arrange the cession of Transylvania to Rumania if the latter will agree to remain neutral and support German interests, but Rumania knows she could never keep the country without Russian good will."

"Day by day the outlook in Austria becomes blacker and blacker. Vienna is well aware that Hungary has no intention of being sacrificed to the interests of the aged monarch's foolish advisers. Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, made that perfectly clear in his remarkable New Year's speech in which he declared that Hungary was able to stand alone. Now the Neue Presse declares for fresh measures to prevent the invasion of Hungary and avert the breakup of the dual monarchy by whatever military means are possible."

"The Austrian army is handicapped heavily by the refusal of the Slavs in the ranks to fight against the Russians. How difficult is the task of the Austrian commanders can be judged by field orders which were given by Slav prisoners to Russian officers. These speak of constant desertions, the throwing away of arms and the refusal to obey orders. Gen. Brander declared in an order to the First Army Corps that a number of men had been wounded in the left arm, which showed that the wounds had been self-inflicted. Gen. Kirschbach ordered a cavalry division not to believe the stories of Austrian reverses under pain of severe punishment."

"The Hungarian regiments which are drawn from districts where the people are of purely German blood fight well and are making a desperate stand now in front of Cracow, but there are not enough of them to counterbalance the unwillingness of the Slavs. From the army which is now preparing to renew the contest in Serbia all Slavs have been eliminated, as the authorities cannot rely on them."

"A number of young Englishmen who have been employed at Baku and other places in southern Russia passed through Kiev yesterday on the way home to join the colors. They said the German raid on Scarborough and other east coast English towns had decided them to re-enlist."

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 4.—The first important auction sale of prize steamers ever held in Great Britain will be held in London tomorrow. It will comprise five German vessels, including the Schlesier of 2,500 tons which was seized off Plymouth on August 7.

It is stated that the condition of most of the vessels will allow them to be used immediately. Some are even stocked with food.

Says Karlsruhe Is Sighted.

WILHELMSTADT, CUTROB, Jan. 4.—It is reported here that the German cruiser Karlsruhe was sighted on the night of January 1 between here and the Venezuelan port of La Guayra by the American steamship Maracabo of the Red D Line.

The Maracabo left New York on December 23 for various ports on the Venezuelan coast.

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